

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A teat cup for laboratory animals, wherein one side of said teat cup is attached to the udder of a laboratory animal through suction and the other side of said teat cup is connected to a negative-pressure generating source via a milk collecting container, wherein milk is collected from said laboratory animal into said milk collecting container through the sucking pulsation provided by said negative-pressure generating source, said teat cup comprising:

a first conical portion where an udder base portion becomes attached;

a second conical portion where a conically bulging portion of the udder becomes attached, said second conical portion being continuous from said first conical portion;

a third conical portion where a teat base portion becomes attached, said third conical portion being continuous from said second conical portion;

a cylindrical teat holding portion where the teat is introduced by suction and fixed without blocking the teat orifice, said teat holding portion being continuous from said third conical portion; and

a connecting portion for connecting the cylindrical teat holding portion to the milk collecting container, which is connected on the side of ~~said~~ a negative-pressure generating source,

wherein said second conical portion, said third conical portion, and said teat holding portion are dimensioned slightly larger than the actual sizes of said conically bulging portion of the udder, said teat base portion, and said teat of the laboratory animal to be milked.

2. (currently amended): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to claim 1, wherein said teat holding portion includes a region with an increased cross-sectional area near where ~~the~~ a tip of the teat is to be located, as compared to a cross-sectional area of the rest of the teat holding portion.

3. (original): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to claim 1, wherein said teat holding portion comprises a conical surface that becomes narrower toward the tip thereof.

4. (original): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said teat cup is entirely made of a transparent material.